

Living Waters

November 2025

A Future With Hope

Pastor Zak

This is the name of this year's annual stewardship campaign, and it is a simple concept that I've been ruminating on day after day. We are living in a moment where it would seem easy to give up hope. Deportations, economic instability, political weaponization, war, and famine are only a few of the daily reasons for giving up all hope for the future. Yet I cannot help but be reminded that the central tenet of our faith is hope, particularly in future reality called the "Kingdom of God." A promise already fulfilled, even if not yet fully realized, wherein *"death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away"* (Rev. 21:4).

Hope means drawing close to God, especially in moments of suffering. Hope means remaining committed to God's love, mercy, and justice in a world that decided these traits are signs of weakness. Hope is an expectant mother who rejoices in song for the Lord who *"has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted the lowly; has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty."* (Luke 1:52-53) Hope means trusting that God has, is, and will always draw close to those who are marginalized due to the injustices of the world.

The beauty of hopefulness is that it has already been born in the form of a Savior. It is the destruction of death through a resurrection that has already occurred. It is the promise of a God who already dwells here, wiping away our tears and offering us an alternative reality where justice and peace exist now. We are blessed with a hope for the future because of God's presence in our lives today. Today we are called to live out this hopefulness in resistance to the broken systems of power, prestige, and politics that tear down, rather than lift. Knowing that true power in God's reign is rooted in love, mercy, and justice. This is our future hope today.



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Worship Information

In Person

Sundays

Worship in the sanctuary at 8am and 10am.

Online/Livestream

Watch the service live on [YouTube](#), or anytime after that!

Altar Flowers Sign-Up

Sign up now using our [digital sign-up](#)! Two bouquet slots available for each Sunday; each bouquet is \$30.

Letters from Vicar Lyndsay



This month brought an exciting new change in my internship year: I am now a DuPage County resident! That's right, in the middle of October Maggie and I moved to an apartment in Lombard, which I am thrilled about because of how it will allow me to integrate myself into the life of St. Paul much more easily. I continue to feel deeply fulfilled here, both professionally and spiritually, and am grateful for each and every one of you for contributing to St. Paul's sense of community.

Congregational Life...



Despite pumpkin lattes, falling leaves and a measure of holiday spirit, it's hard not to feel a certain dread at this time of year. As daylight wanes, nights grow longer, and a chill sweeps down from the north, we know winter is imminent, and will have to be endured. Yet to diffuse its harshness, we find comfort in gathered friends, woolen socks, a crackling fireplace, a glowing candle. Such things bring warmth and light to a dark time of year and help sustain us until spring breaks again.

So too, when darkness falls in our lives, when grief, fear, anger threaten to overwhelm us, we need a place of refuge. John's Gospel describes Christ as the light which the darkness cannot overcome. Through Christ, God's promise is like a warm, comforting hug. It brings a promise of hope, of light, of love, grace and forgiveness to a very weary world.

At St. Paul Lutheran Church, we gather to hear God's message of light and love. St. Paul remains a place where the Word is faithfully preached, where we learn, find support and nourishment, and are inspired to share God's message of hope with others. In a world that seems increasingly angry, our church is a beacon of light, a place of renewal, joy and love.

In this stewardship season we consider the mission of our church and the ways we can support and grow that mission. Between now and Giving Sunday, November 9th, I hope you will do two things. First, continue praying the Giving Prayer daily to help discern the ways God is calling you to serve. The prayer is printed below. Secondly, please complete the Commitment Card you received in the mail, (or pick one up at church or complete it online), returning it during worship on the 9th, when together with joy we will celebrate, *God's gift of hope*.

Your sister in Christ,
Kristen Rosenwinkel, Stewardship

A Giving Prayer

Dear God of Love and Light: Over and over we fall into darkness. Over and over your love and grace light our way back to you. For the nourishment and guidance we find at St. Paul Lutheran Church, thank you. For the gift of faith that sustains us through times of darkness, thank you. For the family of faith that is this congregation, for our dedicated pastor, leaders and staff, thank you. For your abiding love, thank you. In your generosity and grace, O Lord, grant me the wisdom to see what I can give to joyfully shine your light to the world. Amen.

Hands & Feet

Hands and Feet will be open on Sunday November 2 from 2-3:45 pm. This month's collection will be \$10 Aldi gift cards which we distribute to our clients with their products in December. These can either be delivered to Judy, the church office or dropped in the offering box. We just request they are for only \$10 and the envelope clearly states they are intended for Hands and Feet distribution. Thank you for your continued support.

...and More!

Adult Christian Care

The donations received during the month of September for the clients at Adult Christian Care were greatly appreciated. There is always a need for art supplies, paper goods and especially healthy snacks.

St. Paul and several other churches in the area founded this important ministry in 1978 and it has been one of our benevolences throughout the years. Trinity Lutheran in Villa Park, St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Elmhurst, Epiphany Lutheran in Elmhurst (where the center is located), and St. Paul are the churches that support it now. John Freidheim and Karen Egan serve on the board along with members from the other congregations.

Their email is AdultChristianCareElmhurst@gmail.com to inquire about future donations or even volunteer!

September Numbers

Giving: \$34,644 (including online: \$21,798)

Expenses: \$53,418

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(138,249)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
9/7	148	43
9/14	202	78
9/21	145	42
9/28	200	66



Forget Me Not.

Adult Christian Care Is Hiring!

Do you have a heart of compassion, experience working with older adults, and strong interpersonal skills for working with senior citizens who have memory loss? Adult Christian Care is a Memory Day Care Program that is seeking an energetic and creative **Activity Assistant** to join our team and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those living with Dementia. Please email all inquiries and resumes to Ann Wise, Program Director, at adultchristiancareelmhurst@gmail.com if you are interested in this paid half-time to full-time position.

Book Club November 3 at 7pm

A reminder that book club will meet on November 3 at 7pm in the Cafe area to discuss *Isola* by Allegra Goodman

St. Paul Book Club will meet on December 8 at 7pm to discuss *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel in the Cafe area. Our selection is the true crime story of the world's most prolific thief and his accomplice. This is a psychological thriller with many surprises and an astonishing conclusion. You are invited to attend and bring a friend.

Women, Wine, & the Word November 4 at 7pm

We will meet on Tuesday Nov. 4th at 7pm in the home of Judy Nuehring.

We will continue our study of service as a spiritual practice. This month we will focus on advocacy and the story of Esther. All are welcome.



Under 105 November 20

Join us on November 20 at 11:30am for Under 105. Kristen Rosenwinkel will be our special guest as she instructs us in chair yoga!

November's menu will include chili with beef, chili with chicken, macaroni and cheese, assorted salads, corn bread, and assorted desserts.

Please R.S.V.P, by Sunday, November 16, to [Merry Freedlund](mailto:MerryFreedlund).

We hope to see you there!

Family Ministry and Community Corner

Sunday School News

Christmas Program Music Rehearsal

The Sunday School will begin practicing the music for the Christmas program on November 2.

Hat & Mitten Tree Collection—November 23 to December 14

The Sunday School will be collecting hats, scarves, gloves and mittens from November 23 to December 14 for donation. Everyone is welcome to participate. The donations will be split between the Outreach House and Hands and Feet. Your items will be able to be hung on the trees in the cafe and downstairs in the entryway.

Intergenerational Event—November 30

The Sunday School will be hosting an intergenerational event on November 30. We will be making gifts for our Homebound members. Come join the fun. The items will be distributed in December. There will be more information to follow. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Albert (laura@stpaulvp.org)

Family Ministry Update

Big “BOO-TI-FUL” Hugs to all who carved pumpkins – check out our creations!



Save the Date! Annual Christmas Program on December 14

“Love Has Come” is the title of this year’s Christmas Program! The program will be presented during the sermon time at the 10am service on Sunday, December 14. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us in December for this wonderful annual event.

Christmas Program Rehearsal Schedule

- Christmas Program Chimes Practices— Saturday, December 6 & 13 at 9:30am.
- Program Practice—Saturday, December 13, 10—11:00am in the Sanctuary, followed by pizza and a movie in the youth room. There will be a dress rehearsal on December 14 at 9am. Questions? See Roxanne.

Confirmation/High School

“Different Gifts, One Spirit” Metro Chicago Synod Retreat—Saturday, November 15

The Metro Chicago Synod will be hosting a retreat for high school students from 9:00am -4:00pm on November 15. St. Andrews Lutheran Church, West Chicago will be hosting. Cost is \$30.00 per person. The registration deadline is Monday, November 10. Please let Roxanne know if you want to go so we have enough drivers.

Save the Date!

The following events are in the planning stages. More information will follow. Questions—See Roxanne

Trivia Night—Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 5:30-8:30pm

Second Annual Middle School/Confirmation Retreat at LOMC January 16—18, 2026

Youth Servant Trip to Asheville, NC June 20—27, 2026

Renewal and Prayers

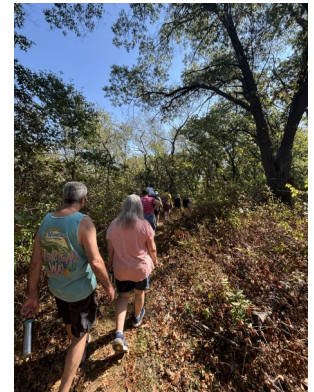
Thanksgiving Worship Service and Pie Social

Join us as we gather to give thanks for all of God's blessings on Sunday, November 23 at 7pm. A special offering of non-perishable goods will be collected for the Outreach House (cash donations will also be accepted). Following worship, stick around for our traditional "Pie Social." Please [sign up](#) to bring a pie by Wednesday, November 19. For more information please contact [Karen Egan](#) or [Cindy Johnson](#).



A Time of Renewal—LOMC Family Campout Weekend

Over the first weekend of October a group of over thirty-five individuals of all ages gathered for the first ever "St. Paul Congregational Camp-Out" at LOMC (Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center). Together we found rest and respite through hikes, games, crafts, scripture, meals, and naps. Whether in a tent, trailer, or lodge we came together to find renewal in community together. This event was another gift of the Lilly Pastoral Renewal Grant, but with such a wonderful response the goal is to make this event an ongoing annual opportunity for renewal as a congregation. A save-the-date for next fall's Camp-Out will be shared early in 2026. We hope to see you at LOMC next fall!



Prayer List

Names will remain on the prayer list for three weeks, or longer by request. To submit a prayer request please use the online [Prayer Request form](#), email prayers@stpaulvp.org, or contact the church office.

Prayers of Healing and God's Presence

The Temple Family (friends of Cary Tate), Donna Barrett (sister of Dave Bard), Joe Brosnan (friend of Carol Simberg), Lois Solheid (friend of Carol Simberg), James Simberg (brother of Carol Simberg), Steve Simberg (brother of Carol Simberg), Carole Batek, Danah Boehmer (niece of Teri Fash), Sheila Bowdish, Melinda Brent, Paige Cady (friend of Carrie Lavorini), Kristy Fash-Alvarez (daughter of Teri Fash), Margaret Golden, Evelyn Kimble, Barb Schreck, Jim Thacker (brother of Cindi Thacker), All Caregivers

Prayers for the Bereaved

Family and friends of Erv Ziemer, and Linda Brady (mother of Melissa Kinney)

Community



Elm Tree News

Hello Fall! October is quickly leaving and we are ready to welcome November. We have been enjoying all things Fall. The cool weather has been perfect for outdoor play and exploring nature. The children have loved collecting leaves, watching the trees change color, and talking about the signs of the new season. God's creation is truly amazing this time of year!

We celebrated Grandparents Day/Grandfriends Day at the beginning of the month. A *Huge Thank You to Our Wonderful Grandparents!* We had such a great time celebrating Grandparents Day with all of you! Your love, laughter, and stories filled our classrooms with joy. The children enjoyed showing you what they've been learning about all things Fall - from apples and pumpkins to colorful leaves and cheerful sunflowers. Thank you for making the day so special!

We're excited to share that Elm Tree has *adopted a cow* named Ivy from Berning Acres Farm! The children will get to follow along with Ivy's life on the farm, learning where our milk comes from and what it's like to care for animals. We can't wait for more updates and pictures from our new bovine friend- right now she's just a tiny baby!

Much love, and many blessings!
Ms. Maggy and the Elm Tree Crew

Join Us for Our Fall Vendor Fair!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 8 from 9am to 2pm right here in Villa Park! Come shop local vendors, enjoy community fun, and enter our exciting *raffles!* We'll also have *Amaryllis bulbs* for sale and *See's Candy preorders* available to help support our Scholarship Fund. It's the perfect opportunity to get a jump on your holiday shopping while supporting Elm Tree!



November 2025

All events subject to change. [View the calendar at www.spaulvp.org](http://www.spaulvp.org) for more information and Zoom links, or contact the church office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Service for Siri Peterson 9a Visitation 10a Service
2 All Saints 8a Worship 9a Bonhoeffer Class 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 2p Hands & Feet 5:30p Espresso Yourself	3 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club	4 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Wine, Women & Word	5 9:30a Bible Study 12p Bunco 4:30p Wings 5:30 Wed. Dinner 5:30 Confirmation 6p Handbells 6p Wired Word 7p Chancel Choir	6	7 1:30p Prayer Vigil Team Meeting	8 9a Elm Tree Vendor Fair
9 Giving Sunday 8a Worship 9a Bonhoeffer Class 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Stewardship 5:30p Espresso Yourself	10	11 2p Rachel Circle	12 4:30p Wings 5:30 Wed. Dinner 5:30 Confirmation 6p Handbells 6p Wired Word 7p Chancel Choir 8p VPYB	13 6:30p Finance Meeting	14	15 Service for Erv Ziemer 10a Visitation 11a Service 12p Luncheon
16 8a Worship 9a Bonhoeffer Class 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Financial Update 5:30p Espresso Yourself	17 6:30p Elm Tree Board Meeting	18 6:30p Council Meeting	19 9:30a Bible Study 4:30p Wings 5:30 Wed. Dinner 5:30 Confirmation 6p Handbells 6p Wired Word 7p Chancel Choir	20 Living Waters Due 11:30a Under 105 Lunch	21	22
23 8a Worship 9a Bonhoeffer Class 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Screen Training 7:00p Worship & Pie Social	24	25	26 6p Wired Word	27 Thanksgiving Office and Elm Tree Closed	28 Office and Elm Tree Closed	29
30 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 5:30p Espresso						



545 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181
630-832-5580 | www.stpaulvp.org

Loved by God, we grow, care, give, and share in Jesus' name.

St. Paul Leadership

Church Council

President, Dan Pedersen
Vice President, Doreen Fritz
Secretary, Kelly Dunkel
Treasurer, Kathleen Murphy

Representatives

Community Engagement, Marti Seaton
Faith Formation, Julie Frakes
Property, Dave Bard
Stewardship, Kristen Rosenwinkel & Gay Nass
Worship Music and Arts, Carol Freidheim
Youth, Lisa Speidel and Ginger Riccio

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Zachary Wagner
Vicar: Lyndsay Monsen
Parish Administrator: Elizabeth Chitester
Administrative & Computer Specialist: Alice Ramsay
Director of Music: Cynthia Viise
Assistant Director of Music: Margaret Colletti
Coordinator of Youth & Family: Roxanne Doremus
Coordinator of Sunday School: Laura Albert
Social Media/ Wedding Coordinator: Katie Briseno
Worship AV Techs:
Fiona Kordyban, Tony Clavio, Keith Root
Nursery Attendant: Nina Matthis

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ community.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Stay Connected

Phone: 630-832-5580

[Email: office@stpaulvp.org](mailto:office@stpaulvp.org)

[Website: www.stpaulvp.org](http://www.stpaulvp.org)

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